United Nations A/C.2/62/SR.3

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Official Records

Distr.: General
12 November 2007

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 8 October 2007, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Lintonen ..... (Finland)

Contents

General debate (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

07-53142 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Ngyuen Tat Thanh** (Viet Nam) said that although remarkable progress had been achieved in implementing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, significant global imbalances and inequalities persisted. Extreme poverty, epidemics, environmental pollution, natural disasters and climate change posed serious threats to human life. If those pressing problems were to be resolved and the Goals were to be achieved within the originally agreed time frames, it was high time for concerted international cooperation on a wide range of issues, including the environment, trade and development finance.

2. His delegation welcomed the fact that the international community was paying due attention to the impact of climate change on development prospects, as evidenced by the High-level Event on Climate Change convened on 24 September 2007 by the Secretary-General on the topic: The future in our hands: addressing the leadership challenge of climate change; the Informal Thematic Debate on Climate Change as a Global Challenge initiated by the President of the General Assembly, and other relevant side events.

3. His country was fully aware of the fundamental connections among the issues of energy security, climate change and sustainable economic development and was on track to achieve its climate change objectives under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention. In keeping with its commitment to the development of clear long-term international and national climate strategies providing targets, support and incentives for the business community, his country hoped that the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention and the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Bali in December 2007 would yield a major breakthrough and devise practical collaborative approaches for addressing climate change.

4. He reiterated his delegation's long-standing advocacy of a transparent and just system of international trade in which the comparative advantages of developing countries were not undermined by arbitrary and abusive non-tariff and other barriers. Special and differential treatment should be accorded in full to developing countries, especially the low-income and least developed countries. Similarly, his delegation urged the elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and favoured enhanced market access for goods and services of developing countries and the facilitation of technology and knowledge transfers to those countries. The impasse impeding progress in the Doha Development Round must be broken in the interest of reaching agreement on a truly meaningful development package.

5. On the question of development finance, ODA levels were declining and development financing was still subject to conditionalities, notwithstanding commitments made by donor countries to earmark 0.7 per cent of GNP for development and the commitments contained in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development. Accordingly, the United Nations and all Member States should redouble their efforts to increase aid for trade and create new mechanisms for innovative financing. In that connection, his delegation looked forward to the forthcoming High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

6. The Second Committee should place development at the centre of the agenda of the United Nations and should facilitate an enhanced partnership with concrete results, as agreed upon in the Outcome of the 2005 World Summit. The United Nations should be the leading advocate for and guarantor of a more open, predictable and equitable multilateral trading system. His delegation therefore attached great importance to the restructuring and revitalization of the economic and social systems of the United Nations and strongly supported initiatives aimed at strengthening the United Nations and its links with other multilateral and trade institutions, particularly in order to accelerate implementation of all commitments made by Governments, and especially those on hunger and poverty eradication, sustainable development and financing for development. His country also strongly supported the One UN initiative and would work closely with relevant United Nations partners to make it a reality in Viet Nam in the foreseeable future.

7. **Mr. Takasu** (Japan) said that concern for human security, based on the belief that every individual is entitled to live a healthy, dignified and fulfilling life, should guide efforts to resolve the challenges posed by global development issues. The benefits of that

approach were manifest in the equitable development of many countries, including Japan after the Second World War and South-East Asian countries after the Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998.

8. The remaining obstacles to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 must be identified and remedial action must be taken. His delegation was encouraged that the 2007 report on the Goals indicated that progress was being made in several regions, including Asia, and he cited relevant statistics in that regard. However, much remained to be done, inter alia, to alleviate poverty and improve health and sanitation conditions. Honouring commitments already made was more important than entering into new ones. Japan, for its part, was striving to meet its commitment to increase its ODA by $10 billion between 2005 and 2009. Assistance must contribute to meeting human security needs and must be measured in terms of real change on the ground.

9. In order to improve aid effectiveness, developing countries, which bore the primary responsibility for meeting the basic needs of human security, must embrace ownership and endeavour to strengthen fiscal discipline and governance. Development actors, including traditional and emerging donors, vertical funds and private foundations, should work in a transparent manner and create synergies by coordinating their assistance in keeping with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

10. Development in Africa was crucial to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Although many African countries were experiencing robust growth, many struggled with such threats to human security as poverty, hunger, conflict and infectious disease, and had made scant progress towards the Goals. If Africa was to become a vibrant continent, its economic growth must be enhanced and sustained; human security must be ensured through the achievement of the Goals, the consolidation of peace and democratization; and environmental issues and climate change must be addressed.

11. His country was making steady progress in fulfilling its commitment to double its ODA to Africa by the end of 2007, and that assistance was yielding tangible benefits. In 2008 it would host the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, which it hoped would mobilize the knowledge and resources of the international community.

12. The Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review was critically important to ensure the effectiveness of the operational activities of the United Nations system. The recommendations of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment and the relevant discussions in the General Assembly should be taken into account in that connection. In particular, the results of the eight "Delivering as one United Nations" pilot programmes must be carefully analysed and evaluated. As to "One UN" at the country level, the dual role of UNDP resident coordinators should be clearly defined in order to improve the functioning of the resident coordinator system.

13. Negotiations on development strategies had recently become more protracted and polarizing, particularly with regard to the relationship between human rights and development. He emphasized in that connection that, as stipulated in the Outcome of the 2005 World Summit, sustainable human-centred development could not be achieved without recognizing the nexus between peace, development and human rights and pursuing those objectives in an integrated manner.

14. With regard to climate change, his delegation welcomed the recent convening of the High-level Event on Climate Change and the decision of the President of the General Assembly to consider climate change a priority issue. Japan had proposed at the Event that global emissions of greenhouse gases should be reduced to one half of current levels by 2050. It had also proposed that three principles should govern a framework for action on climate change after the expiration of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012. First, all major emitters must participate in the framework. Secondly, the framework must be flexible, inclusive and diverse. Thirdly, environmental protection and economic growth must be achieved in a compatible manner, primarily through the development of environmentally friendly technologies.

15. At the same Event, his country had also proposed the establishment of a new financial mechanism to support countries aspiring to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve economic growth in a compatible manner. His delegation hoped that the

Second Committee's deliberations would contribute to successful negotiations at the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Bali in December 2007. His country would also encourage progress towards a new framework on climate change at the Group of Eight Hokkaido-Tokyo Summit in 2008 and would report the results to the United Nations.

16. **Mr. Ramzy** (Egypt) said that it was crucial for countries to demonstrate the political will required to strengthen the role of the international multilateral system, and primarily the United Nations, in tackling development issues. Commitments already made to advance development must be honoured, and trusting relationships must be restored between developing and developed countries. His delegation viewed with concern attempts to undermine the role of the United Nations system by addressing development issues outside the United Nations framework in new so-called multilateral forums.

17. Although some developing countries had made commendable progress thus far towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, others clearly would fail to do so. His delegation therefore welcomed the various initiatives by developing and developed countries to foster the achievement of the Goals including, respectively, the establishment by the Islamic Development Bank of a special fund for that purpose and the call for action by the United Kingdom Prime Minister for developed countries to honour their own commitments and mobilize a global partnership to deliver the agreed targets by 2015.

18. The ongoing preparations for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Doha in 2008, would provide impetus to efforts at the current session of the General Assembly to address the new challenges that had emerged since the Monterrey Conference. The deliberations should ensure an honest evaluation of the status of implementation of the Consensus; a clear determination of existing and new challenges and obstacles, taking into account best practices and lessons learned; and substantive consideration of the proposed initiatives. Participants should steer agreements reached towards effective implementation.

19. He noted with concern that current projections envisaged a decline in the resources needed to achieve internationally agreed goals and the increasing trend towards allocating resources through extrabudgetary and earmarked projects. That trend ran counter to the concept of multilateralism and the principle of national ownership and respect for national development priorities.

20. His delegation urged the resumption of the Doha Round. The participants should address outstanding issues such as agricultural subsidies and market access for non-agricultural commodities and trade services with a view to reaching a balanced agreement reflecting the interests of the various parties and avoiding the introduction of double standards.

21. Efforts thus far to reform the international financial system had not yielded significant progress. The institutions concerned, in particular the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, should adapt their methods of work to developments at the national and international levels. They should strengthen their role by implementing measures to ensure internal good governance, efficiency, transparency and accountability. In order for IMF and the World Bank to become more democratic, they should increase the voice and participation of the developing countries in international economic decision-making.

22. High expectations had been generated recently by the increasing political momentum in support of meaningful measures to effect climate change. There was also a concomitant risk of disappointment and negative implications for the future of mankind should no agreement be reached on the global environmental challenges to be discussed at the forthcoming conference in Bali. The developing countries, including Egypt, called for clear and fair collective international efforts to address the challenges involved. Those countries required assistance so that they would be able to play an effective role and adapt to the impacts of climate change. He reaffirmed the crucial role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as the primary instrument for addressing the topic at the international level.

23. Although progress towards strengthening the Economic and Social Council had been slow, his delegation welcomed the convening of the Development Cooperation Forum in Geneva and the Council's decision to convene an Annual Ministerial Review. It hoped that those new mechanisms would

prove to be constructive tools for monitoring the implementation of agreements and decisions reached at relevant summits and conferences and would facilitate the strengthening of the Council.

24. The African continent, which bore the heaviest economic, health, environmental and humanitarian burdens, had been marginalized in the international economic arena. Intensive efforts were therefore needed to support development on the continent and strengthen forums established for that purpose, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The Second Committee should address development issues in Africa under a separate agenda item, in conjunction with consultations in the General Assembly focused primarily on supporting NEPAD.

25. Special attention should be devoted to the problems of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and post-conflict countries. The needs of middle-income countries also merited special attention; in that connection, the convening of intergovernmental conferences on middle-income countries provided valuable opportunities to address a variety of relevant issues.

26. His delegation called on all Member States to help strengthen the role of the Commission for Social Development as the principal United Nations forum responsible for addressing important development issues within a comprehensive framework based on the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

27. The process of conducting Triennial Comprehensive Policy Reviews of operational activities of the United Nations development system had proved beneficial. His delegation hoped that all parties involved would work to strengthen the process so that such activities would affirm the Organization's role in responding to the priorities and aspirations of the people of its Member States.

28. Egypt had made a positive contribution to intergovernmental consultations on the recommendations in the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence and believed that an integrated approach was required that balanced the priorities of all parties, respected the principle of national ownership and national development strategies and avoided polarization.

29. In conclusion, he urged delegations to spare no effort to improve the lives of the millions of people who aspired to the right to development and a brighter future with less suffering. To that end, he cautioned against adopting general language with no added value or reverting to language that failed to take new realities into account.

30. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Morocco) said that the negotiations for a post-2012 climate change regime required a balanced agreement that reconciled the need to combat global warming, common but differentiated responsibilities, and the imperatives of the economic and industrial development of the countries of the South. The High-level Event convened by the Secretary-General and the General Assembly discussions had brought to the fore the urgency of collective action in order to reach such agreement.

31. Turning to the strengthening of the global partnership for development, he said intensified cooperation for development was a vital requirement for addressing current international challenges. The discouraging downward trend in ODA showed that the promises, commitments, and the US$ 150 billion required to implement the Millennium Development Goals were all far from being a reality.

32. Moreover, the stalemate over the Doha Round had aggravated the drop in ODA. Developing countries' export prospects had declined, owing to escalating protectionism. Member States and development partners must take advantage of forthcoming events, such as the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha in 2008, to revitalize the global partnership entered into at Monterrey, breathe new life into international cooperation, and renew countries' hopes of attaining their development targets, including their Millennium Development Goals.

33. He stressed the need for an evaluation of the Monterrey Consensus; new ways of enhancing it, including through new markets; and fresh thinking on innovative financing sources, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility (UNITAID). His delegation fully supported the United Kingdom proposal to hold a summit on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and was committed to mobilizing the support needed to combat poverty throughout the world, in a spirit of international solidarity. Many

countries had seen their chance to implement the Goals evaporate; without the promised resources for developing the appropriate national strategy, many sub-Saharan African countries had made a poor start towards the achievement of even one Goal.

34. The Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review was of particular interest to the Committee and coincided with the ongoing process on the coherence of United Nations activities on development, environment and humanitarian assistance. The challenge ahead was to follow up on the reforms now under way. Indeed, much more needed to be done in order to ensure the kind of coherence and coordination that would enable the system to respond more affectively to recipient countries' needs. A major challenge was to improve the predictability, stability and reliability of financing so that cooperation programmes could be aligned with national development strategies. All parties should make a concerted effort to that end.

35. Morocco supported the convening of a United Nations conference to promote South-South cooperation, which would provide an opportunity to explore South-South and triangular cooperation.

36. **Ms. Jahan** (Bangladesh) said that while unprecedented growth in the global economy had led to significant, albeit uneven, development in many developing countries, the least developed countries remained trapped at the bottom of the ladder. Some of them had even regressed. The least developed countries would be unable to achieve the Millennium Development Goals without special attention from the international community, in line with the commitments set out in the Brussels Programme of Action.

37. The net outward flow of financial resources from developing to developed countries had more than trebled since 2000; sub-Saharan Africa had experienced an outflow for the first time, making the negative transfer to developing countries a universal phenomenon. The developing countries owned 70 per cent of total foreign reserves, which sat almost idle, forcing them to borrow at very high interest rates to finance their development. The international community must reform the system through a mechanism that afforded the least developed countries interest-free loans against their own reserves.

38. The heavy bias of the current trading system against the least developed countries must be reversed. She called for an expeditious conclusion of the Doha Round, which should deliver on development promises and provide duty-free and quota-free access for all products from the least developed countries. She welcomed the offer made along those lines by some countries of the South and urged other developing countries to do likewise. The Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries needed to be strengthened and adjustment costs must be fully compensated. Trade capacity-building for the least developed countries was critically important. The Aid for Trade Initiative should be internationalized immediately so as to help the least developed countries address their supply-side constraints. Expeditious measures to liberalize the market for service providers under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services would help address the huge unemployment problem in the least developed countries.

39. Given the scant progress made since the International Conference on Financing for Development, the global community must boost its efforts to meet the financing commitments undertaken at Monterrey; in that connection, the 2008 Follow-up Conference afforded a glimmer of hope. With current and projected levels of ODA to the least developed countries falling far short of the 0.2 per cent target and subject to distributive inequities, the problem needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Moreover, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI), however welcome, was not sufficient; all outstanding debts of the least developed countries should be cancelled immediately. Grant-based development assistance would avert the recurrence of unsustainable debts.

40. The post-Kyoto regime must be based on more realistic and legally binding emission-reduction targets. Concrete commitments must also be undertaken to enable the least developed countries to meet their adaptation needs, and climate refugees must receive adequate protection. Access to energy, especially renewable energy, at affordable prices was essential for the least developed countries' attainment of their Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. Regarding the global financial system, measures to increase the quota for some countries did not sufficiently redress the imbalance in voting power in IMF; the new quota formula must be weighted in favour of the least developed countries, whose voices must be heard in the Bretton Woods institutions.

41. The 2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review would afford an ideal opportunity to calibrate the issues relating to the reform of the United Nations system. An effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism was equally crucial for achieving the time-bound goals set at the Millennium Summit. The Committee should play a key role to that end.

42. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) said that her country was firmly committed to human, social and economic development policies and to the development of an entrepreneurial society, as opposed to State or private monopolies. Accordingly, her Government had embarked on efforts to ensure a democratic, lean and efficient State and a flourishing, socially responsible private sector. The goals established under its Democratic Security Policy — which were more ambitious than the Millennium Development Goals — had helped to advance the fight against terrorism, protection of human rights and social achievements.

43. Colombia's economic growth had risen from 4 per cent during the period 2004-2006 to 7.6 in the first half of 2007, owing to the expansion of domestic demand and increased investment. The Government was implementing a responsible fiscal policy, anchored on the criterion of public expenditure sustainability, in order to maintain that performance. Poverty had been reduced from approximately 60 per cent in 2002 to 45 per cent in 2006 and the Government aimed to bring it to below 15 per cent by 2010; unemployment, which had been over 20 per cent in 2000, had dropped to 10.6 per cent in August 2007; per capita income had almost doubled; workers' affiliation to social security had increased by 40 per cent; and the Gini coefficient of income distribution had improved for the first time in decades.

44. Although countries were primarily responsible for their own development, they needed international support, and the Committee's agenda offered a new opportunity to strengthen the commitment of the General Assembly in that regard and make it more action-oriented. Despite the developing countries' efforts at open trade practices, the distortions of international markets hindered the consolidation of an equitable, transparent system so necessary in the context of globalization. She stressed the need for mechanisms to overcome the obstacles to the successful conclusion of the Doha Round, which must become a genuine Development Round that would guarantee developing countries greater access to international markets.

45. The multilateral cooperation system must not discriminate against middle-income countries but rather accord them sufficient ODA and other forms of aid to fight poverty and pursue their development. New and predictable international resources were needed for the global partnership for development. Colombia also supported the proposal to declare a second Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, which could set the stage for new strategies in that area.

46. The Triennial Comprehensive Policy also deserved special attention. Discussions on improving the coherence and effectiveness of development should focus on national capacity-building to help countries move from humanitarian assistance to development and assume national ownership. Her delegation advocated improved coordination between Governments and United Nations agencies to ensure that the latter fully respected countries' sovereignty and tailored their activities to national priorities.

47. On the subject of climate change, Colombia, given its special geographic and climatic conditions, called for a deeper international commitment to help meet developing countries' adaptation needs. Financial support, and knowledge and technology transfer were also urgently needed to foster voluntary mitigation activities. Colombia sought international support for its "Forest-keeper Families Programme" aimed at combating the cutting down of tropical forests and the cultivation of illicit crops. She urged the General Assembly to promote greater recognition of the importance of tropical forests to climate stabilization worldwide. Lastly, on the subject of renewable sources of energy, her country had made significant progress in the production of biofuels from sugar cane and palms at no risk to food security.

48. **Mr. Liu** Zhenmin (China) said that the international community, in particular the developed countries, should fulfil their commitments by increasing ODA — which had fallen in 2006, reducing or cancelling debts, opening up markets and promoting technology transfer to enable developing countries to overcome obstacles to their development. The international economic architecture must reflect the changes in the international landscape by allowing developing countries a greater voice with a view to establishing a more just international economic order.

49. Efforts to mobilize financing for development should be intensified. Effective measures needed to be taken to implement the Monterrey Consensus and to integrate governments and private-sector actions. The international community must assist with capacity-building in the developing countries so that they could raise funds and avert financial risks. The 2008 Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development would afford an ideal opportunity to that end. The multilateral trading system must be fair, open and non-discriminatory and the parties concerned should abolish protectionism, remove trade barriers, establish a fair and competitive trading system, handle trade disputes appropriately and avoid politicizing trade issues. He called for an early conclusion of the Doha Round of negotiations and hoped that the major developed countries would be flexible on issues such as subsidy reduction.

50. The United Nations should play a leading role in addressing climate change, which was, in the final analysis, a development issue, and one closely bound up with economic growth and sustainable development. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol should remain the core mechanism for addressing the issue, on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities. Developed countries should reduce greenhouse gas emissions and offer the developing countries financial assistance to pursue clean development, and the developing countries, in turn, must slow the pace of their greenhouse gas emissions. The United Nations had a leading role to play in that area.

51. A monitoring and evaluation mechanism for international development cooperation should be established to implement the Millennium Development Goals, while the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review should provide guidance on priority areas for development for the coming years. The universal, voluntary and grant nature of assistance should be maintained in operational activities.

52. China's economic development had been rapid, and it had increased its support to the developing countries. It was now implementing five major measures aimed at supporting the accelerated development of developing countries, as well as agreements reached at the Beijing Summit on the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. As the largest developing country in the world, China faced many difficulties, such as low standards of living, unbalanced development and mounting environmental pressures. Its scientific approach to development put people first and strove for all-round, coordinated and sustainable development. It took product quality and safety seriously and had boosted consumer confidence.

53. His country had launched the National Climate Change Programme and was endeavouring to improve energy efficiency. To address the imbalance in international payments, the authorities were adjusting the economic structure, expanding domestic demand and reducing preventive saving. China also held firm to a new industrialization strategy characterized by high technology, high economic returns, low resource consumption, low environmental pollution and the full development of its human resource potential. Its goal was to promote healthy interaction between the social and economic system and the natural and ecological system and the integral development of the economy and society, as well as the well-rounded development of its people.

54. **Mr. Tarragô** (Brazil) said that although the global economy had shown extraordinary growth and stability over the past decade, growth and development were not necessarily synonymous. Ensuring that the benefits of growth reached all nations and all strata of their populations was a critical challenge for the United Nations. Many attempts had been made to respond to that challenge over the past 60 years, including at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and, more recently, with the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals. The international community should take advantage of that exceptionally positive period to create an economic and political environment conducive to achieving the Goals within the agreed time frame. Despite impressive recent achievements in relation to sustainable development, much remained to be done in order to translate the Goals into reality.

55. Development made sense only if it reduced poverty and the unequal distribution of income. A successful Doha Round should therefore include the elimination or substantial reduction of barriers and subsidies to agricultural products so that developing countries could make full use of their comparative advantages. The Doha Development Agenda placed agriculture at the centre of the negotiations as the distortions in world agricultural trade were a

consequence of the industrialized countries' policies to support their inefficient agriculture.

56. Financial challenges included the recent turmoil which for the first time had originated in the developed economies and not in emerging markets. Vigorous growth in developing countries would limit the expected deceleration of the global economy. The international financial institutions had to take into account the increased weight of developing countries and increase their voting power.

57. The Doha Follow-up International Conference should examine new developments, including the successful launching of innovative financial mechanisms such as the "Action Against Hunger and Poverty" launched by Brazil, Chile, France and Spain. The Doha Follow-up Conference should also consider the insufficient levels and lack of predictability of ODA, the precarious harmonization among donors, the increased importance of remittances and the issue of including written-off debt as part of ODA.

58. International action on climate change should be concentrated on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and should follow the two fundamental principles of the Kyoto Protocol: the greater historic responsibilities of developed countries and the greater vulnerability of developing countries. A number of developing countries had made a significant contribution to mitigating that problem.

59. Brazil had reduced deforestation by half over the last two years and had one of the world's cleanest energy matrices. A successful biofuels project had created jobs and increased income and food consumption in rural areas. Brazil had proposed positive financial incentives to reduce emissions caused by deforestation in developing countries and had offered to host a 12-year review of the Rio Conference in 2012.

60. Stressing the importance of South-South cooperation, he said that India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) had set up the IBSA Fund, which currently supported projects in Guinea-Bissau and Haiti. Brazil had undertaken a wide range of bilateral cooperation projects involving members of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, in Africa and Asia and in many Latin American and Caribbean countries.

61. Brazil's technical cooperation was not tied aid and generally consisted of the provision of consultants, technicians, training and capacity-building and equipment. Brazil had initiated triangular cooperation projects with the United States, Canada and Norway in some developing countries.

62. South-South cooperation was complementary to traditional technical assistance flows and should be accounted for separately. Brazil therefore supported the Argentine proposal to hold a new United Nations conference on that subject in Buenos Aires no later than 2009.

63. **Mr. Al-Fayez** (Saudi Arabia) said that his country had contributed some US$ 6 billion towards debt alleviation in developing and least developed countries. Development and poverty eradication were indeed a joint moral responsibility to which concerted efforts should be devoted, with no hint of selectivity or conditionality, in the interests of achieving a global economic balance and laying the foundations for comprehensive economic development. Peace was another factor inescapably tied to development, the pace of which was potentially reversed by instability and conflict. As for efforts to reform the international trade and monetary system, they should continue to be pursued through existing institutions, with developing and least developed countries also working to present a more united front against the tremendous challenges to achieving their development goals and obtaining a greater role in the global economy. Equally vital for those countries were fair conditions for their membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO), market opening and the removal of export duties on their goods.

64. He stressed the fundamental role of the United Nations in such matters as promoting international cooperation, achieving internationally agreed development goals and ensuring developing country ownership of development programmes. Issues of economic development, social stability, environment and housing, inter alia, should consequently rank high on its scale of priorities. For its part, Saudi Arabia had given an average of 4 per cent of its gross national product (GNP), amounting to US$ 84 billion, in assistance to developing countries over the past 30 years. The sustainability of development, he added, would be promoted by maintaining a balance among its social, environmental and economic pillars.

65. On the subject of tackling climate change, he held that the selective policies of certain industrial countries

were troubling; to dispense with fossil fuels was an impractical solution and Saudi Arabia instead advocated the wide use of technologies for their clean use. Saudi Arabia was also positively engaged in the global efforts to preserve the environment, having signed the international conventions on the subject, including the Kyoto Protocol. It emphasized the continuing development of energy technology as the main key to resolving various environmental problems, among them climate change, which called for an appropriate international response by all countries, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibility.

66. In conclusion, he said that globalization should extend beyond opening up markets to include the widening of opportunities for all with a view to a better quality of life and an end to poverty, ignorance and disease. In that connection, stronger South-South cooperation was instrumental to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and should serve as the driving force for the countries of the Group of 77 and China.

67. **Mr. Abushahab** (United Arab Emirates) said that development was the only way to achieve security, stability and prosperity for all peoples. His delegation renewed its call to all stakeholders in the development process to speed up implementation of all the recommendations and resolutions adopted at international development conferences and summits. The High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development to be held at the end of the current month would be a step in that direction.

68. In April 2007, his Government had launched the United Arab Emirates Strategy — the first binding programme of work to achieve balanced sustainable development on the basis of an economic policy package that included a free and open economic system, expansion of the production base, efficient use of oil resources, the development of non-oil sectors and human resources development bolstered by equal opportunities in education, health, social care, employment and training for all social groups. The private sector was assuming a greater role in economic development, and a favourable environment was being created for investment and small businesses. Information and communications technologies were being used in management and were becoming more accessible to the general population. National economic diversification plans had taken account of environmental issues in accordance with Agenda 21. His country was contributing to the international partnership for development through a number of bilateral, regional and international economic agreements. Financial and in-kind assistance had also been extended to many developing countries and to those affected by conflict and natural disasters. His country had made a contribution of over $70 billion, mainly in the form of grants, that had benefited 95 countries. Foreign nationals working in his country contributed over $22 billion annually to financing development in their native countries.

69. **Mr. Sandino Montes** (Nicaragua) said that the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity of Nicaragua had reached an agreement with IMF that would enable the country to continue on its path of stability and development. Despite the fact that his Government had always been critical of IMF policies, which seemed to enrich a few countries rather than support progress, the IMF programme for Nicaragua had been approved.

70. His Government had also submitted a letter to IMF to formalize Nicaragua's appeal for resources for the Caribbean coast to help Miskito, Mayangna and Afrodescendent peoples and mestizo communities affected by Hurricane Felix. In the context of South-South cooperation and the consolidation of the Bolivarian Alternative for Latin America and the Caribbean (ALBA), specific action had been taken for reconstruction in the areas devastated by the hurricane.

71. The IMF agreement was based on the Government's financial and economic plan for 2007-2010, which focused on tackling poverty, creating wealth and jobs and establishing a climate that facilitated the optimal of foreign investment and national production capacity. For the first time, social indicators would be used to monitor progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The three-year programme was designed to ensure that social indicators for school coverage, maternal mortality and drinking water coverage reached certain levels. Economic elements included the maintenance and development of a climate of security and confidence to facilitate foreign investment and support job creation. Nicaragua would also allocate 17.9 per cent of its GDP to the fight against poverty.

72. Under a Memorandum of Understanding between Nicaragua and the European Union, €214 million

would be invested over the next seven years in three important areas: governance and democracy, education, and economic development and the business climate.

73. As a member of ALBA, Nicaragua had signed various collaboration agreements which were an example for both donor countries and for South-South cooperation as cooperation was based on the concept of solidarity rather than altruism. Investment in development and solidarity were key to improving the distribution of wealth.

74. **Mr. Punkrasin** (Thailand) said that 2007 marked the tenth anniversary of the Asian financial crisis. Despite tough economic and financial reforms, the current global imbalances, which were mainly caused by the current account deficits of developed countries, posed serious threats to global financial stability. Hedge funds were an additional destabilizing factor. The imbalances could have drastic consequences if the issue was not properly addressed in a timely manner. More systematic guidance was needed from the international financial institutions to manage capital flows and reduce exchange rate volatilities. The Committee should strengthen its role in a global discussion on that issue.

75. Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals was an urgent matter and depended on the building of a global partnership. Developed countries had to honour their commitments, especially in relation to ODA. The forthcoming High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development would provide an opportunity to review the progress made and to engage in future collective action. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation could serve as important platforms for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Global partnership should not be limited to relationships among States. The Committee could be an engine for real global partnership for development by engaging partners at all levels to ensure that development meant win-win conditions for rich and poor countries alike. The Committee could also encourage South-South cooperation for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development targets.

76. Sustainable development was not about aid: developing countries needed the opportunity to trade themselves out of poverty. The Committee should therefore provide guidance so that at least the modalities of the Doha Development Agenda could be finalized within the current year. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) could serve as a platform for discussion to provide guidance or policy options for all countries. Thailand was an active member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which was working towards achieving a borderless community by 2015 and shared the same global aspirations for growth and prosperity in a sustainable manner.

77. **Mr. Badji** (Senegal) welcomed the degree of interest world leaders were showing in the issue of climate change, as evidenced by the recent High-level Event initiated by the Secretary-General, and the discussions in the General Assembly. The search for solutions must take into account the need for both radical change in people's day-to-day behaviour, in order sharply to diminish the causes of the problem and greater attention to the situation of the least well-off, who were the most under threat. Initiatives to combat global warming could not and must not be entrusted to governments alone, but rather should be based on a solid global partnership entailing a sharing of responsibilities and focusing on the needs of the most deprived. The entire issue of sustainable development should thus be re-examined from the point of view of the necessary balance between the demands of the environment and countries' need for development. Those two imperatives did not have to be at odds: they could and should be reconciled.

78. Given the scale of the tasks to be undertaken and the resources that would be needed, it was self-evident that the less wealthy countries would not be able to resolve their climate problems without significant assistance in the form of increased investments in the creation and use of clean and efficient forms of energy and the transfer of appropriates low-cost technologies. In that connection, Senegal welcomed the MDG Carbon Facility initiative, recently launched by the United Nations Development Programme as a contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the developing countries, through the promotion of projects to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The Global Environment Facility and the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism should play a major role in providing such assistance and should re-examine their uneven funding of African countries thus far.

79. Since the world did possess the technological capacity and the scientific knowledge to overcome its

present climate-related problems, it was to be hoped that the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Bali in December, would offer an opportunity to make significant progress to that end. As climate initiatives could be hampered by the same shortcomings that interfered with effective implementation of the various multilateral environmental agreements, it was urgent to proceed with the reform of international environmental governance by, inter alia, strengthening the authority of the relevant United Nations bodies and the United Nations Environment Programme in particular.

80. The concerns arising out of climate change must not be allowed to divert attention from other development issues, as poverty and underemployment remained major challenges for most of the countries of the South. Those countries were also extremely vulnerable to external factors, such as natural disasters and instability in world prices for raw materials, and were still facing the traditional obstacles, such as the vicious circle of debt, in which the countries of Africa remained trapped.

81. Yet another persistent problem was the mobilization of resources for development as pledges of funding for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and of support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development had not been honoured. It was to be hoped that the Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Qatar in 2008, would make it possible to correct the present imbalances and to begin to make the progress for which the world's poorer regions had been waiting so long.

82. Further, although globalization undoubtedly did have some advantages, thus far it seemed to have accentuated the marginalization of the great majority of the peoples of the South, primarily in Africa. The deadlock at the Doha Round, which had now lasted two years, only worsened poor countries' chances of ever benefiting from globalization.

83. Upgrading Africa's digital and technological infrastructure could greatly assist the countries on that continent to advance economically, enabling them to benefit from all the opportunities offered by access to the new information and communication technologies (NICTs). That was the objective of the Global Digital Solidarity Fund proposed by Senegal on behalf of Africa at the World Summit on the Information Society held in Geneva in December 2003.

84. Despite economic and financial turbulence and the imponderables of globalization, Senegal was pursuing a policy of accelerated growth for the period 2006-2015 aimed at moving into the category of emerging countries by achieving a growth rate of 7 to 8 per cent over the longer term, doubling its GDP over 10 years and doubling the per capita GDP over 15 years. It was also implementing the second version of the Poverty Reduction Strategy for 2006-2010, based on the Millennium Development Goals, which had recently been approved at a round table between Senegal and its development partners. At the same time, Senegal was making efforts to improve its business environment, in particular by simplifying the administrative procedures for private investment, reducing the tax burden on companies, developing basic infrastructures and promoting good governance.

85. But the cost of oil, which was imposing an ever greater burden on public finances and budgetary equilibrium, could well jeopardize those plans and the social advances obtained through several years of hard work. That situation had prompted Senegal and other countries of Africa to establish the Association of Non-Oil-Producing African Countries (PANPP), which, inter alia, promoted the development of alternative forms of energy by exploiting the continent's potential as a producer of biofuels.

86. Furthermore, a move to biofuels, beyond reducing dependence on oil and oil-based products, would also contribute to preserving the world's environment. To that end, Senegal was combating maritime erosion, establishing 7,000 kms of tree plantations around the desert area and building reservoirs to hold rainwater. Senegal also remained committed to maintaining the progress it had achieved in education and health, advancement of women and the fight against infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

87. **Mr. Alahraf** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that it was important to support the development efforts of middle-income countries by providing technical assistance, establishing effective and transparent partnerships and promoting programmes designed to accelerate achievement of the Millennium

Development Goals. The strengthening of South-South cooperation was also crucial to the shared use of natural and human resources and represented a strategic option for the establishment of fruitful cooperation on a range of issues. On that score, the international community had a vital role to play by implementing the recommendations of the Group of 77 and China South Summits, which would lead to economic improvements and higher living standards. He welcomed plans to convene an international conference in Argentina in 2008 to follow up implementation of the Buenos Aires Programme of Action concerning technical cooperation among developing countries and the Doha Plan of Action concerning South-South cooperation.

88. Development was inextricably linked to globalization and trade liberalization, which broadened opportunities but also posed severe financial and economic challenges. The disturbing result was to create unequal advantages that ultimately increased the income gap between developed and developing countries. There was consequently a need for a global strategy that incorporated a development dimension and took into account intellectual property rights, technology transfer and access to drugs for killer diseases.

89. He stressed the need to devote adequate attention to the African continent, of which the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was part, by strengthening the development activities of the African Union and NEPAD. United Nations programmes and agencies had a major role to play in that regard. In conclusion, he said that his country was determined to fulfil its obligations relating to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and that it hoped for the support of all WTO member States in the completion of its negotiations for WTO membership, begun in 2004.

90. **Mr. Ndjonkou** (International Labour Organization) reported on some important policy decisions taken by the Organization in recent years. The 2005 World Summit Outcome and the 2006 Ministerial Declaration of the Economic and Social Council had both stressed the central role of productive and gainful employment and decent work in eradicating poverty, achieving sustained economic growth and providing a foundation for sustainable development. Various meetings had been held to reinforce decent work policy decisions at the regional level, and collectively those efforts had begun to pave an important path to development by placing decent work at the centre of global and national policies.

91. Beyond those policy developments, it was important to focus attention on the 2.8 billion workers who remained unable to earn enough to lift themselves and their family members above the poverty line. Nor should it be forgotten that much remained be done in order to achieve fair globalization. A world in which large numbers of people remained trapped in perpetual poverty with few opportunities posed severe global challenges.

92. The world was in search of a form of sustainable development that balanced economic, social and environmental objectives. There was a need to increase the demand for labour and raise the productivity and incomes of people living and working in poverty, integrate socially excluded communities into the labour market and overcome discrimination, particularly against women and girls, and improve the terms on which developing countries traded with richer countries and obtained investment finance.

93. The International Labour Organization continued to do its part to influence that process by assigning substantial resources through its Decent Work Country Programmes and by responding to country-driven demand for support, with particular emphasis on ensuring that the voices of workers and employers were heard. In Africa, employment and social protection for poverty reduction formed the backbone of the regional programme. In the Americas, decent work had been vigorously promoted as one of the most important factors in country-level policy development. In the Arab States, gradual trade liberalization and democratization had increase awareness of workers' rights. In Europe and Central Asia, freedom of association and social dialogue, employment and labour market policy, occupational safety and health, pension reform and targeted social assistance formed the mainstay of the programme. In Asia and the Pacific, a top priority had been employment and poverty reduction.

94. Decent work and sustainable development could not be viewed in isolation from each other. Decent work did not have to be traded off against environmental sustainability. Adapting to and mitigating climate change would entail new patterns of natural resource use and conservation. The

International Labour Organization was meeting the challenge through its "Green Jobs Initiative".

95. ILO had developed a toolkit on decent work to help the specialized agencies conduct self-assessments on the incorporation of decent work outcomes into their own programmes and activities. Coherent action among the organizations of the multilateral system was vital to the achievement of global goals. The start of a new session of the Second Committee provided an opportunity to galvanize efforts in search of coherent and complementary policies while overcoming past constraints. ILO stood ready to participate in wider partnerships in the domains to which it could bring the considerable experience of its tripartite constituency.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.